Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1 - 15 (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A method of conducting an instant messaging session between a first user and a second user over the Internet, the users being associated with two different realms, each realm being accessible via the Internet using a protocol characteristic to the realm, each user getting access to the Internet via a respective first and second device, at least one device having a storage media for storing the characteristic protocol of the other realm, the method comprising the steps of:

determining a current IP address of the second user, and

establishing a connection from said first and second users using said current IP address and said characteristic protocol.

- 17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein each time one of said first and second users access the Internet, the corresponding device sends a message to an IM database indicating that the corresponding user is on line and said current IP address.
- 18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein said step of determining said current IP address comprises retrieving said address from said IM database.
- 19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 further comprising sending a connection request from the first to the second device for establishing said instant message session.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 further comprising generating a response to said connection request by said second device accepting said connection request.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising displaying a window on the screen of said first and second devices, said window indicating a list of active users.

103. (New) The method of claim 22 further comprising displaying said window with a message area, said message area being used to indicate messages between said users.